

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As below-named inventors, we hereby declare that:

Our residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to our names, that we believe that we are the original, first and joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a United States patent is sought on the design entitled **SALT PLATFORM WITH HUB HAVING LOCKING ELEMENT**, the specification of which:

is attached hereto; or
 was filed on , as application Serial No.
 and was amended on (if applicable)

that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claim, as amended by any amendment referred to above; that we do not know and do not believe that said design was ever known or used in the United States of America before our invention or discovery thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before our invention or discovery thereof, or more than one year prior to this application, or in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application; that said design has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued prior to the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by us or our legal representatives or assigns; and that we acknowledge the duty to disclose information of which we are aware which is material to the examiner of this application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a).

We hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

NUMBER	COUNTRY	DATE FILED	PRIORITY CLAIMED (yes) (no)
--------	---------	------------	--------------------------------

None

We hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of any United States Application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States Application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, we acknowledge the duty to disclose

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

11162/2001

material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

APPLICATION SERIAL NO.	DATE FILED	STATUS
None		

We hereby appoint:

William R. Gustavson	Reg. No. 29160
Daniel V. Thompson	Reg. No. 29706

all of the firm of Thompson & Gustavson, our attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and to file and prosecute any international patent applications filed thereon before any international authorities under the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

Send correspondence to:
Thompson & Gustavson
Suite 995
12225 Greenville Ave
Dallas, TX 75243

Direct telephone calls to:
William R. Gustavson
at (972) 680-6065
Atty. Docket No. 11162/02001

We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under § 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

11162/2001

Full name of sole or first inventor: **Donald B. Peddicord**

Inventor's signature: Donald B. Peddicord

Date: 3-02-00

Residence (City, County, State) **Rt. 1, Mead, Oklahoma 73449**

Citizenship: **United States of America**

Post Office Address: **P.O. Box 1936, Durant, Oklahoma 74702**

Full name of third inventor: **Michael W. Freitas**

Inventor's signature: Michael W. Freitas

Date: 03/02/00

Residence (City, County, State): **8421 Castle Creek, North Richland Hills, Texas 76180**

Citizenship: **United States of America**

Post Office Address: **8421 Castle Creek, North Richland Hills, Texas 76180**

Full name of fourth inventor: **James E. Kilgore**

Inventor's signature: James Kilgore

Date: 03/02/00

Residence (City, County, State): **577B Commerce Street, South Lake, Texas 76092**

Citizenship: **United States of America**

Post Office Address: **577B Commerce Street, South Lake, Texas 76092**

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

Applicant or Patentee: **Donald B. Peddicord et al.**
Serial or Patent No.: **Applied for**
Docket No.: **11162/02001** Filed or Issued:
For: **SALT PLATFORM WITH HUB HAVING LOCKING
ELEMENT**

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY
STATUS
(37 C.F.R. §§ 1.9(f) and 1.27(b)) - INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.9(f) for purposes of paying reduced fees under §§ 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled SALT PLATFORM described in

the specification filed herewith.
 application serial no. filed.
 patent no. , issued .

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 C.F.R. § 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 C.F.R. § 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 C.F.R. § 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

no such person, concern, or organization.
 persons, concerns or organizations listed below*.

*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 C.F.R. § 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 C.F.R. § 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true

and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punished by fine or imprisonment, or both, under § 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF INVENTOR: **DONALD B. PEDDICORD**

SIGNATURE *Donald B. Geddicord*

Date: 3-02-00

卷一百一十五